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SUBJECT Organization of Entertainment and Propaganda in the
Albanian Armed Forces

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The following information on entertainment, cultural and propaganda activities in the Albanian Armed Forces dates through early Aug 92."
2. Organization
"The following diagram illustrates the authority which the Partia Punes Shqiptare (Albanian Labor Party -- the OP of the country) exerts over the cultural life of persons in the Armed Forces:

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- A. Komiteti Qendror Partis Punes Shqiprise, Sek. Politik (Ushtria Popullore), Tirana
- B. Ministria Mbrojtjes Kombetare, Drejtoria - Politike, Sek. Agitpropit-Kulture
- C. Shtepia Qendrore Oficeravet Te Ushtris Popullore (Central Officers' Club of the People's Army), Rr. e Kavajes, Tirana
- D. Divizioni...X., Dega Politike, Sek. Agit-Kulture
- (a) Korzi Ushtris Popullore (People's Army Chorus)
- (1) Regjimenti...X., Sek. Politike, Sek. Agit-Kulture
- (b) Teatri Ushtris Popullore (People's Army Theater)
- (2) Batalion...X., Sek. Politike, or Org. Baze Partis Punes.
- (c) Baleti Ushtris Popullore (People's Army Ballet)
- (d) Banda Qendrore Ushtris Popullore (People's Army Central Band)
- (e) Orchestra Qendrore Ushtris Popullore (People's Army Central Orchestra)
- (f) Kinema Shtepia Qendrore Oficeravet (Central Officers' Club Cinema)

Legend

The organization of cultural activities in the Armed Forces follows the pattern of the organization of Communist activities.

- (A) The ultimate authority is the People's Army Political Section of the Central Committee of the Labor Party.
- (B) It passes down through the Agitprop-Culture Section of the Political Directorate of the Ministry of Defense. This is one of the many sections of this Directorate. It has the same subsections as those listed for CC. It controls:
- (C) The Central Officers' Club of the People's Army in Tirana; and
- (D) The Agitprop-Culture Section of the Political Branch of each division. That Section supervises (1) the Agitprop-Kulture subsection of the Political Sections of the regiments under its command. These bodies control in turn (2) the Agitprop-Kulture Subsections of the Political Sections of the regimental battalions or of the Org. Baze Partis Punes of the battalions. If a battalion is supervised directly by a regiment, it has a Party Basic Organization; if it depends directly on divisional headquarters (e.g. the Shkolla Artilerise Mbrojtjes Bregdetare -- Coastal Artillery School in Durrës), it has a Political Section.

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3. "The Agitprop-Kulture Section of the Dega Politike of a division is directed by an officer who has the rank of Captain 1st Class or Captain 2nd Class. It supervises the cultural activities of the division. A division has the same subsections as those listed for the Central Officers' Club in Tirana.
- (a) Grupi Korral i Divizionit - Chorus Group of the Division. Composed of the 50 best voices from all units of the division. The director works closely with the civilian chorus leader of the Teatri Popullor (People's Theater) of the region in which the division is located - if there is a Teatri Popullor for that region. Otherwise he works with a chorus leader from the Central Officers' Club.
 - (b) Baleti dhe Grupi i Vallevet i Divizionit - Ballet and Folk Dance Group of the Division. Composed of the 20 best dancers in the division. They work with the dance director of the regional Teatri Popullor or with a director from the Central Officers' Club.
 - (c) Grupi Teatral i Divizionit - Division Theatrical Group. Composed of the most talented persons from (a) and (b). Until 1949 the Divisions had real theatrical companies. Since then all funds have been restricted and diverted to rearmament. No new scenery is available. The theatrical activities are limited to humorous sketches and short comedies.
 - (d) Banda Qendrore i Divizionit - Central Band of the Division. Thirty persons.
 - (e) Orchestra Qendrore i Divizionit - Central Orchestra of the Division. Plays for the dance and chorus groups and for the Shtepia Oficeravet (Officers' Club). Note: there is a Shtepia Oficeravet in every regional capital except Kukes, Puke, Lesh, Peshkopi, Shijak, Kruje, Tepelene and Himare.
 - (f) Kinematografia nder Divizionit - Motion picture activities. There are two military cinemas in Tirana. Some divisions have mobile cinema units (a projector installed in a truck). Military personnel attend compulsory motion picture performances in civilian theaters and cinemas every Sunday morning free of charge. Film content: 75% Soviet military newsreels and military films; 25% Soviet films on nonmilitary subjects. The military units march in parade to these shows, singing a march.
4. "Each regiment has the same cultural sections as a division, with naturally less members: 20 in the Chorus, five-10 in the dance group, 10 in the theatrical group. The regiments do not have military bands but do have small orchestras. If the regiment is in a town, the personnel get to see films at the local cinema. Mobile cinema units visit isolated regiments and those units which cannot leave their ~~heads~~ ^{heads}. The cultural activities of a regiment are directed by a Captain 1st or 2nd Class, or a lieutenant, who is a member of the Political Section of the regiment.

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5. "The Agitprop-Kulture subsection of a battalion Sek. Politik or Org. Baze Partis Punes of a battalion is under the command of a NCO, N/Toger, Aspirant or soldier.
 6. "The Shtepia Qendrore Oficervet Te Ushtris Popullore in Tirana occupies a three-story building built during the Italian occupation. The Communists have added a cinema to it. The Army Chorus consists of 70 NCO's and soldiers. In 1952 it was directed by Captain 1st Class Gago Avrazi. The People's Army theater has a company of about 20 NCO's and soldiers. The People's Army Ballet and Folk Dance Group consists of 30 dancers: soldiers, NCO's and female military personnel from the auxiliary services. The female dancers wear military uniforms with the Lyra insignia on the epaulettes or the left arm. The People's Army Central Band consists of 60 NCO's and soldiers. The Kinema Shtepia Qendrore Oficervet section manages the club cinema on Rr. Kavajes. The films come from the film section of the Political Directorate of the Ministry of Defense. (I believe that that body manages the other military cinema in Tirana, the Kinema e Brigadavet.)
 7. "Every year, November through May, the People's Army Chorus, Theater and Dance Groups tour the regional capitals of Albania to give performances for military personnel. The Army Central Orchestra tours the capitals May through September. A Soviet company (nonmilitary) toured Albania in June 1952. A Korean company toured Albania during July, 1952. Its repertoire included folk music and dances. In Durres civilians and military personnel attended free of charge.
 8. Every year about August is the Festivali I Grupeve Teatro-Koral-Folkloristik I Repartevet Te Ushtris Popullore Te Shqiperise (the Festival for theater, choral, and folk dance groups of all military units of the Albanian Armed Forces). This is held in Tirana at the Kinema e Brigadavet. The Division of Coastal Defense won first prize in the 1950 and 1951 festivals. The festival was scheduled for September in 1952.
- Privileges
9. "The only privileges accorded members of the cultural sections of a division, regiment or battalion, are more off-duty permits and leaves and Flete-Lavdrimi (written commendations) from divisional headquarters. They receive no extra payments. They enjoy a certain priority of discharge at the end of their military service.
 10. "The members of the People's Army Chorus, etc. do enjoy several special privileges:

- (a) Career officers and NCO's: Monthly salaries between 5000 and 6000 Lek.
 - Special foci - Food Norm 9 - the same as sports directors.

Food Norm 9

Breakfast: 100 gms sugar
two eggs
50 gms honey
 $\frac{1}{2}$ liter milk
50 gms cheese

Dinner: always 150 gms
of meat, plus
fruits and cake.

I Gindi (at 5 pm): 100 gms
cheese, 100 gms
jams and fruits.
Darka: always 150 gms of
meat, two eggs,
fruit
(Bread at will).

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Free accommodation
Special uniforms and the Triska
Veshmbathje (Clothing Ration
Card) for Heavy Workers, No. 1.
Civilian clothing during rehearsals.
15 paid days of leave annually.
One month paid lodging at a summer
resort camp: the military camp
at Durres or one of the civilian
camps at Pogradec.

(b) Soldiers and noncareer NCO's: Same privileges as above except
not such high salaries and no 15
days' leave.

Subject Matter

11. "The musical repertoire of the Army choruses are 80% Soviet, 20% Albanian
and Satellite. Per orders of the Political Directorate of the Ministry of
Defense, 10% of the Soviet songs must be sung in Rumanian. Popular songs
include:

'Kanga Stalinit'
'Marshi Ushtris Kuge' (March of the Red Army)
'Moskes Fitimtare' (Moscow Victorious)
'Garda e Kuge' (Red Guard)
'Katjushka' (The Katjushka - a Soviet weapon used in World War II)
'Traktoristia'
'Takistat'

12. "About 80% of the folk dances and ballets are Soviet, e g Kazakh,
Azerbaijan and Turkestan dances. The remainder were regional Albanian
dances.

13. "The theatrical repertoire includes the anti-capitalistic works performed
in the civilian theaters; e g 'Piratet ne Kore' and such songs as
'Shatrivani Bacisairat' which is directed against the primitive capital-
istic regimes of Asia.

14. "Motion pictures shown to military personnel in 1952 included:

'Manevrat e Ushtris Kuge' (Manoeuvres of the Red Army)
'Aktiviteti Fiskultural ne Ushtrin e Kuge' (Physical Culture
Activities of the Red Army)
'Akademit Shkollat e Institucionet e Kuadrovet Ushtris Kuge'
(Academies and Schools for the Instruction of New Cadres
of the Red Army)
'Ushtria e Kuge Morojtia e Pages ne Bote' (The Red Army,
Defender of the Peace of the World)

15. "The Shtypshkronia Ushtarake (Military Printing House) of the Political
Directorate of the Ministry of Defense prints the following publications:

Luftari - a bi-weekly paper
Revista Ushtarake - a classified monthly magazine, available
only to officers and instructors, not ordinary
soldiers. Contents include classified military
information.
Shenime per Agjikator - monthly instruction pamphlet for
Party agitators.
Puntori Partis - monthly pamphlet for political instructors.

Page three of Luftari is dedicated to cultural activities. It prints
poems and stories written by military personnel.

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The Dhoma e Kultures

16. "The Political Directorate of the Ministry of Defense manages a Dhoma e Kultures (House of Culture) in each regional capital which has a Shtepia Oficervet. Every unit also has its own Dhoma e Kultures, which is usually one room. The rooms are alike: a picture of Lenin between one of Stalin and one of Enver Hoxha; the Albanian and Soviet flags; bust of Stalin and Hoxha; the inscription 'Proletare te Gjithe Botes Bashkohuni' ('Workers of the World, Unite!'); pictures of the members of the Soviet Politbureau; five boards called Tenda with pictures on the following subjects:

Kampi Socializmit Bashkimi Sovietik - Soviet Socialism: pictures of Soviet industries, kolkhozes, cultural activities of the Soviet Armed Forces.

Mbrojtja e Pages ne Bote dhe Nxitesit e Lutes me ne Krye Anglo-Amerikanet - Defense of peace in the world vs. Anglo-American Incitement of War: Photostats of peace petitions signed throughout the world, photos of peace conferences, of the Soviet UN delegate proposing a cease-fire in Korea, photos of US and British atomic and germ warfare plants, cartoons of Truman and Churchill etc next to photos of British and American workers.

Demokracit Popullore - People's Democracies: pictures of life in the Satellite countries.

Aktiviteti ne Repartet e Ushtrisë Popullore - Activities of Units of the Albanian People's Army.

Plan i Pes Vjecar dhe Veprat ne R. P. SH. - The Five Year Plan in the Albanian People's Republic.

Boards for material on the above five subjects are obligatory in every room or House of Culture. In 1952 there was usually a board also for material on the 'Lufta ne Kore' (Struggle in Korea). It showed pictures of the Korean people in rags fleeing to the mountains, executions of old people and children, raped women, bombing with normal and germ bombs, looting by US soldiers, US prisoners of war invoking mercy in Korean courts and a chance to join the Communists, re-education of US POW's, captured UN war material, decimation of the Turkish Brigade, etc. The House of Culture also displays photographs of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party. There are tables with papers and magazines. These publications are not distributed to the soldiers but available at the House of Culture to be read during the culture period in the daily schedule. The room usually has a Tabela Enderit with the photographs and names of the best soldiers in the unit (chosen by the Org. Baze Partia). Communist slogans in a typical House of Culture include:

'Ma Shume Djerse ne Page e Me Pak Gjak ne Lufta', Suvorov:
'More sweat during peace; less blood during war.'

'Lirine Nuk e Sollu Une Por e Gjeta ne Zemrat e Shqiptarvet',
Skanderbeg: 'I have not bought freedom; I found it in Albanian hearts.'

'Teorija Marksiste Nuk Eshte nje Dogme Fetare Por nje Udheheqese per Aksion', Lenin: 'Marxist theory is a dogma of belief but a guide for action'.

'Bashkimi Sovjetik Keshtjella e Mbrojtjes Pages ne Bote', Hoxha:
'The USSR is the citadel of defense through the world.'

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